GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1058
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2017
TB Research
Kharge Shri Mallikarjun

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India was once at the forefront of TB research with studies done at the erstwhile TB Research Centre, Chennai shaping global policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of India's role in research for TB vaccines, diagnostics and drugs;

(c) the budgetary allocation for TB research in the country during the financial year 2017-18; and

(d) whether there is a provision for TB research/drugs/diagnostics under the new Make in India initiative and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a) & (b) : Yes, the erstwhile TB Research Centre, Chennai, now known as the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), is an internationally recognised Institution for TB research. It is a Supranational Reference Laboratory and a WHO collaborating centre for TB research and training. An International Centre for Excellence in Research (ICER) was established at the Centre in collaboration with the National Institute of Health (NIH). The research studies have led to change in the policy of national programme on TB.

The 'India TB Research Consortium' has been set up to develop new tools for tackling TB in a 'mission mode'. Under the above Consortium, Tata trusts have given a seed grant of Rs.20 crore for two years aiming at better diagnostics for all forms of TB, shorter and safer regimen of TB/MDR-TB, efficacious preventive vaccine and better implementation strategies to reach to TB affected population. MDR detections kit (TruenatRif) has been developed under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP). Drug trials are also being funded and the Institute is involved in TB Vaccine Research as well.

(c) : The budgetary allocation for the financial year 2017-18, for Research Programme at NIRT, Chennai and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Headquarters, is Rs.54.65 crore and Rs.40 crore, respectively.

As per the information provided by the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, the allocation for External Quality Assessment (EQA) activities, including research activities is Rs.3293.50 lakh.

(d) : A collaborative TB Research Project is being undertaken by the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals. The Target specific New Drug Discovery for Anti Tubercular Agents, an inter-departmental collaborative project, aims at discovery of high affinity ligands that can be developed into efficacious and less toxic drugs against TB.

The joint programme has been initiated by the ICMR with the Department of Bio-technology and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to promote and commercialize the indigenous TB diagnostic tests developed by Indian Scientists/companies. The research projects for development of the indigenous tools are supported through extramural and intramural programmes.